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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-05 /089 W
---------- 087891
R 171330Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4481
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0301

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS :PINS,PFOR,RH
SUBJ :RHODESIA:CHARGES AGAINST SITHOLE MADE PUBLIC

REF :CAPE TOWN 0284

1. RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS EXPANDED CHARGES AGAINST SANU
PRESIDENT SITHOLE. CHARGE SHEET RELEASED TO PRESS MARCH 15
STATES SITHOLE'S ALLEGED OFFENSES INCLUDE,IN ADDITION TO
PLOTTING ASSASSINATION OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS,RESPONSIBILITY
'IN A LARGE DEGREE FOR THE DEATH,SINCE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT
WAS ANNOUNCED,OF TERRORIST VICTIMS AND THEIR INJURY BOTH
IN PERSON AND PROPERTY.'

2. ACCORDING TO STILL UNCLEAR PRESS REPORTS,SITHOLE IS
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CHARGED WITH RESISTING ATTEMPTS TO MAKE CEASEFIRE AGREE-

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MENT OPERATIVE. HE IS ALSO ACCUSED OF PURSUING ZANU'S MILITARY AIMS SINCE AGREEMENT BY URGING INTENSIFIED VIOLENCE,BY CONTINUING RECRUITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS FOR 'TERRORIST'TRAINING,AND BY OPPOSING INCORPORATION OF ZANU MILITARY FORCES UNDER CONTROL OF ANC. RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ALSO ALLEGES THAT SITHOLE HAS ATTEMPTED TO DELAY SETTLEMENT TALKS UNTIL AFTER MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT HE HAS CLAIMED RELEASE OF DETAINEES WAS DIRECT RESULT OF ZANU MILITARY ACTION. HE IS ALSO CHARGED WITH ASSERTING THAT ZANU HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER PARTS OF RHODESIAN TERRITORY.

3.RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT CONSIDERS ITSELF 'BOUND TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL COURT'. WHICH WILL REVIEW SITHOLE'S DETENTION ORDER BEGINNING MARCH 24. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PLEDGED THAT ALMOST ALL OF EVIDENCE DEALING WITH CHARGES RELATING TO HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUATION OF GUERRILLA WAR WILL BE HEARD IN PUBLIC. ACCORDING TO 'EMERGENCY POWERS(SPECIAL COURT)REGULATIONS' GAZETTED MARCH 14, COURT WILL JUDGE ON 'NECESSITY OR EXPEDIENCY OF CONTINUING SITHOLE'S DETENTION WHETHER ON GROUNDS ON WHICH DETENTION ORDER WAS MADE OR ANY OTHER GROUNDS.' MENTION OF 'OTHER GROUNDS'APPARENT REFERENCE TO CHARGES, OTHER THAN ASSASSINATION PLOTTING,WHICH GOVT HAS NOW MADE PUBLIC. ACCORDING TO PRESS,REGULATIONS DICTATE THAT RHODESIAN GOVT MUST INFORM SITHOLE OF GROUNDS ON WHICH DETENTION ORDER WAS MAED, BUT NEED NOT GIVE HIM FULL PARTICULARS,INCLUDING NAMES OF WITNESSES AND THEIR SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS.

4. COMMENT: DECISIONS TO RELEASE CHARGE SHEET AND TO ALLOW PUBLIC TO ATTENT AT LEAST PART OF SPECIAL COURT HEARING ARE IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL PARTICULARLY SOUTH AFRICAN , OPINION. NEW CHARGES INDICATE THAT RHODESIAN GOVT INTERESTED IN DISCREDTING NOT ONLY SITHOLE AS INDIVIDUAL,BUT ALSO ZANU AS A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

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